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Jackson Says Reds Renege On K Nuclear Cutback Pledge

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Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) declared yesterday that the Soviet Union apparently has reneged on a promise to trim production of nuclear weapons material.

He also said that "contrary to a wide spread impression that Moscow is cutting its strategic military capability, in truth Moscow is diligently expanding both its offensive and defensive capacity—including ballistic missile and nuclear warhead development and production."

The Senator's remarks were made in Seattle to the World Affairs Council. He is in a position to know the facts, as far as Washington knows them, because he is chairman of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee's military applications subcommittee and is a member of the Senate Preparedness subcommittee of the Armed Services.

Jackson referred to an April 20, 1964, statement by then Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, issued the same day that President Johnson announced a four-year, 20 per

cent cut in U.S. plutonium production and a 40 per cent decline in output of enriched uranium.

Khrushchev promised—and Mr. Johnson announced the promise during a New York speech—"to discontinue now the construction of two new big atomic reactors for the production of plutonium," to "reduce substantially" in "the next few years" output of U-235 for weapons and to allocate more fissionable material for peaceful uses.

Yesterday Jackson said that Khrushchev's "successors apparently do not feel bound by that promise for we have received no similar assurances from them. Nor have they given any indication that production is actually being reduced — from their statements and actions the opposite is true. Perhaps our own position will have to be reconsidered, so that we are not maneuvered into a position of unilateral arms limitation in a critical area."

Jackson yesterday declined to go beyond that paragraph. But it is known that it is based on hard intelligence estimates.

Furthermore, Administration and congressional sources also familiar with the available facts agreed with the Senator. Efforts to find out from the Russians just what Khrushchev proposed to do have been unavailing.

Jackson's remarks about increased Soviet strategic military capability referred specifically to increased production of intercontinental ballistic missiles, to their emplacement in hardened sites and to other advances, especially in the past year.

The impression in Washington has been that Moscow was accepting second place in the missile field, rather than that they were "cutting back." Jackson yesterday explained that his "cutting back" remark applied only to the matter of fissionable material. He apparently meant to imply that Moscow is not, in fact, accepting second place but trying to match the United States.

As to nuclear production cutbacks, there was no formal Soviet-American agreement and hence no breach of agreement.